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Wednesday December 30 2015

UK HOMEPAGE

PM denies north-south rift on flood help

Local politicians claim government would never permit extensive flooding in Home Counties

Outlook for oil hit by Saudi budget cuts

Riyadh signals it is prepared for long-term pain amid prospect of increased output from Iran

Letwin blamed 'bad morals' for 1980s riots

UK government papers reveal remarks about black communities by adviser to Thatcher

VIDEO

Nightmare before Christmas for Game Digital

Shares in Game Digital plunged more than 40% to a record low on Wednesday after the UK video game retailer warned disappointing Christmas sales would have an impact on profits. Lex's Rochelle Toplensky and Oliver Ralph discuss the latest developments.

US HOMEPAGE

Isis chief linked to Paris attacker killed

US says Syria-based Charaffe al-Mouadan connected to Abdelhamid Abaaoud, head of France terrorist cell

Buffett faces worst year since 2009

Berkshire Hathaway shares fall 11% as commodities downturn hits star investor's company

Car-hailing pioneer Sidecar hits red light

US lift and delivery service to close after failure to compete with bigger rivals Uber and Lyft

EUROPE HOMEPAGE

Noble Group downgraded to junk by Moody's

Shares fall 9% as rating change caps difficult year for the commodity trader

Italian banks consider share discounts

Veneto Banca and Banca Popolare di Vicenza look at pricing their offers at a legal minimum

Couple guilty of plotting London attack

Twitter user called 'Silent Bomber' targeted Tube and Westfield

ASIA HOMEPAGE

$35bn Treasuries auction draws low demand

Yield on 2-year US note at highest level in more than 5 years

Cautious welcome for 'comfort women' deal

Settlement with Seoul aims to soothe unease over Tokyo's account of its wartime record

Pakistanis debate 'Saudi-isation'

Spotlight on hardline Islamic education leading to radicalisation

WORLD NEWS

Iraqi forces buoyed by PM visit to Ramadi

National flag hoisted above the government complex after Iraqi forces reclaim the city from Isis

Polish government cracks down on media

Critics accuse Law and Justice of appropriating national broadcasters in latest reforms

China orders groups to hire ex-soldiers

Businesses told to find jobs for some of the 300,000 troops to be laid off in modernisation drive

Lott aims to get Washington working

Former Senate majority leader laments lack of dealmaking on Capitol Hill

Two Australian ministers resign

Front bench job moves loom for PM Turnbull's 3-month old administration

COMPANIES NEWS

DuPont job cuts hit home state hardest

'Devastating day' for Delaware as 1,700 staff hit by Dow Chemical merger savings plan

Activists aim at muddling midsized banks

US lenders generating subpar returns face pressure to merge

Mast Bros controversy stirs chocolate debate

Claims that hipster brand misled consumers shine light on industry

Men still dominate at big groups

Progress for women on boards not matched in other senior roles, study shows

Samsung Engineering shares surge 30%

Signs of successful rights offer bolster hopes of revival for struggling S Korean builder

MARKETS

Economic data and oil boost global stocks

S&P 500 up 1.1% and looking to fourth consecutive annual gain

Financialisation compounds commodity rout

Companies struggle to meet debt payments as dollar income shrinks

Commodity industry wrongfooted by slump

Investors pulled money from products heavily weighted towards oil and metals

COMMENT

European risks that economists do not see

What at first looks positive can turn negative if the politics goes wrong, says Stephanie Flanders

It took hawkish Abe to bury the hatchet

His rightwing credentials have allowed him to pull the two countries closer, writes Joji Sakurai

Apt misquotation can reveal greater truth

Many apocryphal quotes represent posterity's polish on what was actually said

Privilege protection and French taxi wars

Drivers blame Uber for a fall in licence prices, writes Anne-Sylvaine Chassany

A year in a word: Gig economy

The line between gigs and work is getting increasingly blurred

MANAGEMENT

Digital doctors: on a medical mission

Three medics and one ex-student reveal the challenges and lessons of their health-tech ventures

A 2016 guide to the technology age gap

You may choose to amend your techie ways and appear more up-to-date, or be old-tech and proud

An automated expert eye

London-based Tractable's algorithms enable affordable and accurate inspections fast

Seattle, US: a different west coast scene

Plenty of staff for tech start-ups — if you can prise them away from established names

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